

"Lord of the Storm"

Week 8 Online Only

Mark 4:35-41 "35 That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." 36 Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. 37 A furious squall (storm, tempest) came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. 38 Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" 39 He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. 40 He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" 41 They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

Now here we have an account of Jesus commanding His disciples to get into a boat with Him to cross the sea to the other side.

It is early on in Jesus' ministry.

The 12 disciples have so far seen Him heal the sick, cast devils out of tormented people, restore a withered hand, command a paralyzed man to get up and walk...

And they had listened to His teaching...

We know from Matthew's account that they had sat and listened to the unparalleled Sermon on the Mount prior to the storm at sea.

The disciples well knew that no one had ever taught like Jesus did!

So as far as the disciples were concerned, they had joined up with a miracle working wonder Man who had the world by the tail!

Things were fresh, exciting, never a dull moment when following Jesus!

Until, that is....they got into the boat and encountered a hurricane.

Now, I want to pull some things out of this story that apply to what we're all experiencing today—the Covid-19 storm!

The first thing we learn is:

I. Storms happen, even when Jesus is in the boat!

It says that out of nowhere, "A great windstorm arose."

The Greek word for windstorm means a *HURRICANE like storm*.

A "mega" fierce hurricane wind struck them without warning.

The Bible says it was so fierce that "the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped."

The LB says, “High waves began to break into the boat until it was nearly full of water and about to sink.”

No one on the boat had expected this storm.

**They didn’t have a channel 5 weather forecast,
or an iPhone weather app;
there was not a meteorologist among them.**

This storm carried a shock factor; it was an “out of nowhere” trial.

And that’s how storms happen in real life—in your life and mine.

**Everything is going fine—we’re just doing life, paying the bills,
raising the kids, going to work—when suddenly a storm strikes
unannounced.**

**We get a bad report from the doctor,
or we find out our children are involved in something bad and sinful,
or we find a pink slip on our desk at work,
or we come home to find a spouse has left us.**

**The threatening wind blows,
the rain of adversity falls,
and the waves of trouble threaten to sink us.**

And keep in mind it was Jesus Himself who told them to get in the boat!

They wouldn't have been in this storm if Jesus hadn't led them into it!

This happened when they had given all to become His disciple!

Which leads me to the second point in this story...

II. Jesus purposely took them to faith school

This storm at sea was Jesus' classroom designed to teach them something new, which I'll show you in a moment.

But think with me: Did Jesus know this storm was coming?

If He didn't then He wasn't God in flesh.

Being God, Jesus knew the end from the beginning—He knew this storm would come.

In Isaiah God clearly tells us something important about Himself:

Isaiah 46:9-10 NASB "Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things

**which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established,
And I will accomplish all My good pleasure';"**

**Almighty God predicts the way something will end before it even
begins!**

**And Jesus, being God incarnate, revealed this ability over and over
again while on earth.**

**For instance, He told Peter, "I tell you the truth, Peter—this very
night, before the rooster crows, you will deny three times that you
even know me" (Matt. 26:34 NLT).**

**And just as Jesus said, the Bible records that Peter denied the Lord 3
times....and following his 3rd denial, a rooster crowed:**

**"But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about."
Immediately, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed. The Lord
turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the
Lord, how He had told him, "Before a rooster crows today, you will
deny Me three times" (Luke 22:60-61 NASB).**

Jesus, being God, knew the end from the beginning...

**He could step into the future and see it played out before it
happened.**

So no question about it, Jesus knew this storm would come while they were crossing the sea!

So we might ask, Why did He allow it? Why would He allow His disciples to be shaken and rattled by this hurricane?

ANSWER: He wanted them to learn something about Him they would not learn any other way; that is that:

III. Jesus was God

As the storm reached it's height and it looked in the natural like they might go under, the disciples looked and saw that Jesus was asleep in the helm of the boat.

It seemed as if He was totally oblivious to what they were experiencing!

So they cried out: "Teacher, don't you care that we're going to drown?"— Mark 4:38 NLT

Lord, this storm's about to kill us!

Don't you see it? Don't you care?

Where are you in my storm?

I remember once many years ago I was in a storm of my own.

I had graduated college and was fully expecting all kinds of ministry doors to swing open for me.

I had obeyed the Lord to finish my Bachelor's degree and expected great things to begin to take place because my passion and calling was to preach.

Yet the opposite happened—nothing opened. At all.

In fact, very soon me and my little family found ourselves in financial straits.

Rather than great ministry opening, I couldn't even find a decent job.

This was during the 80's recession and there just wasn't anything there.

—Day after day the contrary winds blew, the rain of disappointment fell, and the waves of desperation began to fill my little boat.

I found myself asking, "Where's the Lord in all this?"

Does He see me down here?

It seems like He's asleep in my trial!

But all the while God was working in ways I could not see.

He was preparing a door deep in East Texas where I would start my first church and become a pastor.

When His plan finally fell into place I saw the goodness of God, and that He had intended to teach me about His sovereignty over my life,

And to also show me that I was called to be a pastor, not a traveling evangelist as I had thought.

Now, what did the disciples learn in Jesus' classroom that day?

The Bible says that:

Mark 4:39 NASB "He (Jesus) got up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Hush, be still." And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm."

The disciples were stunned, and they asked the million dollar question that reveals what Jesus wanted them to understand:

Mark 4:41 NLT "Who is this man?" they asked each other. "Even the wind and waves obey him!"

Great question! The answer is, *He is God.*

Only God can command nature, that He Himself created, and it will obey Him.

The disciples had known Him as teacher, healer, and miracle worker.

But now they knew that He was very God wrapped in flesh!

What is God trying to teach us in this Covid-19 storm?

For different people it will be different things, but one thing I can assure you of:

If you are His child, Jesus is teaching if you are listening!

And we will emerge from this storm stronger than before if we keep hold of His hand and walk through it with Him.

Let's pray!

